

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY
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MOSCOW FOR ASST SEC HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: HU, EEWT, PFOR

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIVE VANIK INTERVIEWED ON HUNGARY

1. MARCH 27 NYTIMES CARRIES FOLLOWING ARTICLE ON PAGE 10
HEADLINED "U.S. IS URGED TO RETURN HUNGARY'S ANCIENT CROWN"
AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES, WASHING-
TON, MARCH 26 - THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, UNDER PRESSURE
FROM A GROUP IN CONGRESS LED BY REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES A.
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VANIK, DEMOCRAT OF OHIO, HAS BEGUN STUDYING WAYS TO EXTEND
NONDISCRIMINATORY TRADE STATUS TO HUNGARY AND TO RETURN
THE COUNTRY'S ANCIENT CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN.

IN AN INTERVIEW YESTERDAY MR. VANIK SAID THAT HE BELIEV-
ED HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES COULD ASSEMBLE A MAJORITY IN BOTH
THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE TO APPROVE BOTH MOVES - AND PER-

HAPS TO EXTEND THE TRADE PRIVILEGES TO BULGARIA AS WELL.

THE INITIATIVE IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE MR. VANIK WAS THE HOUSE AUTHOR OF THE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT TO THE 1974 TRADE ACT, WHICH DENIED MOST-FAVORED NATION TREATMENT IN TRADE TO COUNTRIES THAT RESTRICTED EMIGRATION.

LAST MONTH MR. VANIK AND HIS COLLEAGUE ON THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, BILL FRENZEL, REPUBLICAN OF MINNESOTA,

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WROTE LETTERS TO SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE URGING THAT "WE SHOULD CONTINUE IN EFFORTS TO EXPAND OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH (SOVIET) BLOC COUNTRIES."

MR. VANIK NOTED ALSO THAT A CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION HAD FOUND THAT, "ALTHOUGH ON PAPER HUNGARY'S EMIGRATION LAW IS STRICT, IT IS APPLIED IN A GENERALLY POSITIVE MANNER."

HE ALSO WROTE BOTH PRESIDENT CARTER AND MR. VANCE THAT "THE TIME HAS COME TO RETURN THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN TO HUNGARY."

THE CROWN WAS PRESENTED AS A CORONATION GIFT TO ST. STEPHEN IN THE YEAR 1000 BY POPE SYLVESTER II AND, ALONG WITH A SCEPTER, ORB AND ROYAL MANTLE, IS A SYMBOL OF HUNGARIAN NATIONHOOD. IT WAS SMUGGLED OUT OF HUNGARY IN 1945 BY ANTI-COMMUNIST HUNGARIAN OFFICERS. -- UNQUOTE.
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2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE INTERVIEW WAS CARRIED MORE FULLY IN CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER.

3. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT'S PRESS OFFICE MARCH 28 (NO QUESTION AROSE DURING MARCH 28 NOON PRESS BRIEFING):

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ABOUT CONGRESSMAN VANIK'S REPORTED REMARKS ON MFN FOR HUNGARY AND RETURN OF THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN?

A: WE ARE AWARE OF REPRESENTATIVE VANIK'S INTEREST IN THESE MATTERS AND WILL, OF COURSE, TAKE HIS VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT.

Q: IS THE ADMINISTRATION REVIEWING THE QUESTION OF RETURN OF THE CROWN TO HUNGARY?

A: THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S POSITION REMAINS THAT THE QUESTION OF THE CROWN'S RETURN TO HUNGARY WILL BE ADDRESSED IN LIGHT OF IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS.

Q: WOULD YOU COMMENT ON MR. VANIK'S VIEW ON MFN FOR HUNGARY?

A: THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT YET FORMULATED A POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF REVISING THE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT, BUT WILL BE CONSULTING THE CONGRESS ON THIS MATTER AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

4. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT.
CHRISTOPHER

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